

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A monitoring tool comprising:
 - a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to [[a]] at least one subscribing e-commerce system;
 - a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;
 - a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said at least one subscribing e-commerce system, and when a response is received in said collector;
 - a status array indexed by a URL and sample size of each at least one subscribing e-commerce system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and,
 - an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.
2. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

3. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems, said dispatcher dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list, said collector collecting responses to said dispatched placebo transactions, said logger computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received in said collector, said alerter alerting individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

4. (Currently Amended) A monitoring tool comprising:
a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to [[a]] at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with a subscribing e-commerce system;

a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;

a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said back-end transaction processing system, and when a response is received in said collector;

a status array indexed by a URL and sample size of each at least one subscribing e-commerce system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and,

an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in said at least one associated back-end transaction processing system.

5. (Original) The monitoring tool of claim 4, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for detecting an unreliable response condition in [[a]] at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the at least one back-end transaction processing system; [[and,]]

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the at least one back-end transaction processing system; and

recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each at least one back-end transaction processing system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding

subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for detecting an unreliable response condition in [[a]] at least one back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; [[and,]]

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and

recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each at least one back-end transaction processing system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end transaction processing systems comprising the steps of:

reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;
generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list;

receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;
computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received; [[and,]]

recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each e-commerce system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, transaction latency data associated with the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system; and

notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

9. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;
dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;
determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;
if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; [[and,]]
if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and
recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for said transaction processing system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

10. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

generating a placebo transaction;

dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing system;

determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;

if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; [[and,]]

if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and

recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for said back-end transaction processing system, said status array comprising an indicator indicating that a placebo transaction has been submitted to a corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a response has been received from the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, an indicator indicating whether a latency threshold has been exceeded by the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system, and an average response time for the corresponding subscribing e-commerce system.

11. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end transaction processing systems, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:
reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;
generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list;

receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;

computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received;

recording a plurality of elements in a status array indexed by a URL and a sample size for each back-end transaction processing system, said status array comprising a plurality of elements that include at least one of an indication that a placebo transaction has been submitted, an indicator of whether a response has yet been received, and said transaction latency data;

monitoring said status array using a user interface; and,

notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.